

Message Text

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NASA:JZIMMERMAN (INFO)
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: HO, PPDC, EHRG (MELGAR CASTRO, JUAN ALBERTO)

SUBJECT: REPLY TO CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR'S LETTER TO
PRESIDENT CARTER

1. THE AMBASSADOR IS REQUESTED TO REPLY TO CHIEF OF STATE
MELGAR'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER ALONG LINES OF PARA 2
BELOW. PARA 3 BELOW QUOTES GENERAL MELGAR'S LETTER TO
PRESIDENT. PARA 4 EXPLAINS WHY PRESIDENT DID NOT REPLY
DIRECTLY. BEGIN QUOTE:

2. HIS EXCELLENCY
BRIGADIER GENERAL JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR CASTRO
CHIEF OF STATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS
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TEGUCIGALPA

DEAR GENERAL MELGAR:
PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ASKED ME TO REPLY TO YOUR THOUGHTFUL
LETTER OF JANUARY 24 WHICH AMBASSADOR TODMAN DELIVERED TO
HIM. THE PRESIDENT WAS INFORMED ALSO OF HOW IMPRESSED
AMBASSADOR TODMAN WAS WITH THE DEDICATION AND TALENT BEING

APPLIED BY YOUR GOVERNMENT IN ITS PURSUIT OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE PRESIDENT WAS PLEASED TO LEARN OF THE PROGRESS WHICH YOU REPORT IN YOUR LETTER TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER DISPUTE WITH

EL SALVADOR AND TOWARD THE NORMALIZATION OF TRADE WITHIN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET. SUCCESS IN THOSE AREAS WOULD ESTABLISH YOU AND PRESIDENT ROMERO AMONG THE PEACEMAKERS OF LATIN AMERICA AND WOULD WIN THE GRATITUDE OF ALL THE PEOPLES OF CENTRAL AMERICA. THE PRESIDENT REQUESTED THAT YOU KEEP US INFORMED OF CONTINUED PROGRESS. THE EFFORTS OF THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT HAVE THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES.

CONTINUED CLOSE CONSULTATION BETWEEN MEMBERS OF OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS ON THE WORLD BANK AND INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK LOANS FOR THE EL CAJON HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT IS VERY DESIRABLE. WHEN THE FEASIBILITY STUDIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON EL CAJON PROJECT FINANCING ARE MADE AVAILABLE BY THE BANKS, YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT THEY WILL BE GIVEN PROMPT AND CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IN LIGHT OF YOUR CREDIT REQUESTS TO THE BANKS.

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A TEAM FROM THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AND THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IS PLANNING TO VISIT HONDURAS BEGINNING MARCH 27. THE TEAM WILL EXPLORE WITH THE HONDURAN SUPERIOR ECONOMIC PLANNING COUNCIL AND OTHER HONDURAN INSTITUTIONS THE USE OF REMOTE SENSING IN THE IDENTIFICATION, MAPPING AND EVALUATION OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF HONDURAS. THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY HERE IS IN TOUCH WITH YOUR OFFICIALS TO DECIDE ON THE EXACT AGENDA, RURAL AREAS TO BE VISITED, AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS.

PRESIDENT CARTER SHARES WHAT I AM SURE IS YOUR GREAT PRIDE IN THE CONTRIBUTION YOUR WIFE MADE RECENTLY TO THE THIRD U.S.-CENTRAL AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN NEW ORLEANS. IN ADDITION, HE HAS ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO YOU HIS WARM PERSONAL GREETINGS.

SINCERELY,

MARI-LUCI JARAMILLO. UNQUOTE.

3. BEGIN QUOTE:

JANUARY 24, 1978

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I READ WITH PLEASURE YOUR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 12, 1977,
WHICH I TRULY APPRECIATED.

I ALSO APPRECIATED YOUR POSITION ON THE EL CAJON HYDRO-
ELECTRIC PROJECT. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT BOTH THE
INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE WORLD BANK HAVE
DETERMINED, AFTER ANALYSIS, THAT THIS IS THE BEST PROJECT
FOR HONDURAS FROM AN ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL STANDPOINT
AND CONSEQUENTLY ARE PREPARED TO SUBMIT IT TO THEIR
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BOARDS OF GOVERNORS DURING THE SECOND HALF OF 1978.

I WANT TO THANK YOU IN ADVANCE, MR. PRESIDENT, FOR THE
FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION WHICH I AM CERTAIN THAT YOUR
GOVERNMENT WILL GIVE TO OUR REQUESTS FOR CREDITS TO
CARRY OUT THIS PROJECT, PARTICULARLY THE ONE WE SHALL
SUBMIT TO THE IDB FOR A MAXIMUM OF US \$75 MILLION, OF WHICH
WE HOPE US \$50 MILLION WILL BE A SOFT LOAN FROM THE FUND
FOR SPECIAL OPERATIONS, WHICH REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF DATA SUPPLIED BY REMOTE SENSORS,
I TAKE PLEASURE IN INFORMING YOU THAT WE ARE READY TO
RECEIVE THE NASA OFFICIALS ON WHATEVER DATE THEY MAY
CHOOSE TO VISIT OUR COUNTRY.

IN VIEW OF YOUR WISH TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF THE PROGRESS
MADE TOWARD RESTORING PEACE BETWEEN HONDURAS AND EL
SALVADOR, I AM MOST GRATIFIED TO TELL YOU THAT I HAD A
PRIVATE MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO ON JANUARY 7, 1978,
AT A POINT ON THE BORDER BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.
THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CORDIAL AND FRANK AND WE BOTH EXPRESSED
THE DESIRE THAT THE MEDIATION PROCESS, WHICH IS SOON
TO BE INITIATED, WOULD LEAD TO FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ALL
THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. IN REFERENCE
TO THE MOST DIFFICULT PROBLEM, WHICH PERTAINS TO
BOUNDARY ISSUES, PRESIDENT ROMERO STATED THAT EL SALVADOR
WOULD BE WILLING TO RECOGNIZE, AS AN AGREEMENT REACHED
PRIOR TO THE MEDIATION PROCESS, THAT THE LINE TRADITIONALLY
RECOGNIZED BY BOTH COUNTRIES, AND ABOUT WHICH THERE IS
NO DISPUTE, COVERS MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL
BOUNDARY, THEREBY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF BORDER AREAS
IN DISPUTE TO SIX. WE ALSO DISCUSSED THE POSSIBILITY OF
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SUBMITTING ANY REMAINING DISPUTE TO THE LEGAL PROCEDURES FOR THE PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES ESTABLISHED UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, IN THE EVENT THAT DIFFERENCES OVER ANY OF THESE AREAS COULD NOT BE SETTLED DURING THE MEDIATION PROCESS.

FOR OUR PART, KNOWING OF EL SALVADOR'S INTEREST IN NORMALIZING ITS TRADE RELATIONS WITH HONDURAS, WE

OFFERED TO NEGOTIATE A BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD ENTER INTO FORCE AT THE SAME TIME AS THE GENERAL TREATY THAT WILL PUT AN END TO THE EXISTING CONTROVERSY AND WOULD REMAIN VALID UNTIL THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW TREATY ESTABLISHING THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL AMERICA. FURTHERMORE, HONDURAS AND EL SALVADOR AGREED JOINTLY TO PROMOTE AMONG THE OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE REGION THE PROMPT ADOPTION OF THIS NEW INTEGRATION TREATY TO REORGANIZE AND STRENGTHEN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET.

PRESIDENT ROMERO AND I AGREED TO MEET AGAIN TO COMPLETE AND FORMALIZE THE AFORESAID AGREEMENTS IN PRINCIPLE.

ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREGOING, MR. PRESIDENT, I VIEW THE FUTURE OF THE REGION WITH OPTIMISM SINCE PEACE AND NORMALCY COULD SOON BE RESTORED IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AS THE PEOPLE AND GOVERNMENT OF HONDURAS FERVENTLY DESIRE.

I AVAIL MYSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION AND PERSONAL ESTEEM.

(SIGNATURE)
BRIGADIER GENERAL JUAN ALBERTO MELGAR CASTRO
CHIEF OF STATE
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(STAMP OF THE CHIEF OF STATE)

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4. YOU MAY, AS APPROPRIATE, WHEN DELIVERING THE ABOVE LETTER, TELL GENERAL MELGAR THAT BY REQUESTING YOU TO

RESPOND ON HIS BEHALF, THE PRESIDENT DOES NOT INTEND TO INDICATE A DECREASE OF INTEREST IN THE EL CAJON HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT, THE REMOTE SENSING PROGRAM, OR THE SETTLEMENT OF THE BORDER DISPUTE. INSTEAD, CHIEF OF STATE MELGAR'S LETTER APPEARS TO BE A TYPE THE WHITE HOUSE GENERALLY DOES NOT ANSWER DIRECTLY, I.E., IT IS A RESPONSE TO A LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER WHICH DOES NOT ADDRESS ANY NEW TOPICS IN SIGNIFICANTLY NEW WAYS. VANCE

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